

route in winter is over an inland lake and then through timber chiefly, skirting the shore of Lake Winnipeg. In summer it is best reached by boat.

Balsam Bay, a scattered settlement on the shore, has 7 families. Mr. Coates endeavors to give them a fortnightly service—but the journey by road is so long and difficult, owing to bogs and deep streams, and travel by boat is so uncertain that the services are unavoidably irregular. There is an average congregation of 20.

Rev. P. Bruce is the school teacher here under the control of an ordinary school board.

This station with Grand Marai's gave \$14.57 to the Home Mission Fund in 1897.

We arrived at Grand Marai's late, and had some trouble in procuring lights.

I found a nice neat log Church had been erected—size 20 x 24. Shingle roof, square windows, as yet no furniture. We had the building full, among the congregation being a number of men from the lumber camp, 4 miles away. Total number of persons present 50. The offertory for the Home Mission Fund was over \$5.00.

There are 10 families resident—15 Communicants, and the average congregation has been 30.

In addition to the settlers who live by fishing, farming and working in the lumber camps and mill, there are a number of men employed at, and living near the camp and mill. This seems to indicate the necessity of providing, if possible, for the spiritual wants of this community, better than Mr. Coates with his uncertain facilities for travel can ever do.

One solution of the difficulty would be to provide a suitable boat for the work, but there is little prospect, I fear, of that.

Another plan would be to have there a good Catechist, to work under Mr. Coates, to take services at Grand Marai's and Balsam Bay.

I beg to record my appreciation of the value of Mr. Coates' work. To understand how hard it must be, one must visit the district. He has been most faithful and diligent and seems to have the implicit trust of both Indians and settlers.

It seems probable that in any re-arrangement of work Poplar Park should be thrown in with the lower part of St. Peter's Reserve, where the work already demands another ordained worker.

All Respectfully Submitted,
WM. A. BURMAN,

January 25th 1898.

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BISHOP YOUNG'S

Missionary Tour through the Diocese of Saskatchewan.

ATHABASCA LANDING,

Having received several requests for some account of my visit to the Church Missionary Society's Missions in Saskatchewan, I have thought it well to write a circular letter. By a friendly arrangement with my brother Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary I undertook his usual visitation of these missions while he attended the Lambeth Conference.

My journey commenced with a canoe trip of some six hundred miles down the Saskatchewan.

On this I was accompanied by Mrs. Young and my son Frank. Our craft was a 16 foot "Cheman" canoe.

During the first stage of our journey we were interested in the gangs of gold miners engaged in "placer-mining." Many of them were working out a stratum just beneath the surface soil, sometimes at an elevation of 20 to 30 feet above the waters. Some Cree Indians were working in one gang. I asked them if they were getting much of the yellow metal "oosawapisk"; they laughed and said, "not much."

Our first objective point was Battleford, where an Ordination and Confirmation awaited me. The large Indian School there, is under the management of Rev. E. Matheson. He is assisted by a good staff of workers. It was pleasant to note the bright, intelligent faces of the pupils, several of whom were presented for Confirmation. During a visit to every part of the large building (formerly Government House for the North West Territories) I noticed the cleanliness and order that prevailed.

The Rev. John R. Matheson whom I had the pleasure of ordaining Priest, brings all the old energy that characterized him in his early days, as scout and pioneer, to bear upon his work among the Indians. His school at Onion Lake has been built by sheer energy and determination on his part, in face of many obstacles and discouragements.

A heavy rise of the river carried us swiftly over the ninety miles that intervened between Battleford and the site of the once large establishment of the H. B. Co., at Carlton. The last time I touched the Saskatchewan at this point was late in September of 1894. Then, the large fort buildings were all intact, and, save for rumors of impending troubles, to all appearance good for another thirty years. An open grass-grown space surrounded by bush, is now the only vestige of what was once so important a Post on the Northern freight road. An old parishioner and worker in my former parish of St. Andrews, the Rev. James Taylor, awaited our arrival at the Carlton Ferry. We started from his camp about 11 a.m., on Saturday, July 10th, for his mission at Sandy Lake. This was a forty miles drive,